

**Suggested Remarks
Dr. Aye Aye Thwin
Chief, Office of Health, USAID/Philippines
Pangasinan Health Summit
Oxford Hotel, Clarkfield, Angeles, Pampanga
25 September 2008**

Honorable Governor, Amado Espino, Jr.
Vice Governor Marlin Primicias-Agabas
Undersecretary of Health, Dr. Mario Villaverde
Ambassador Alistair MacDonald
Dr. Edgardo Janairo, Department of Health-Center for Health
Development 1 Regional Director

Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good afternoon/evening to all.

First, USAID congratulates all its partners, especially the
Provincial government and the participating local government
units for making this event possible.

It is an honor to be here among you to participate and stand
amongst the distinguished partners to discuss such an important
theme – Good Governance Leads to Good Health, Good Health is
Good Governance.

USAID is encouraged to see the municipalities themselves recognizing the importance of the wellbeing for their constituents and assuming responsibility for sustaining the health care system. The fact that today, local governments are joining in this summit is a tribute to the deep commitment of the LGUs/Local Chief Executives to assuming responsibility for health planning, implementation and management of health programs in their localities.

USAID commends the Province of Pangasinan for its many accomplishments and its continuing vision of good health through good governance. Pangasinan and the American people through USAID projects have shared a strong partnership since 1975 working together on local development, population management, and health/medical outreach programs. The support of the US government has since then shifted to and focused on LGU empowerment and development, and improvement of the health system through governance, financing, regulation and service delivery.

We are pleased to know that this health summit is being convened to jumpstart a major initiative of the province, cities and municipalities in strengthening their various roles and

responsibilities to ensure the continued health improvement of the people of Pangasinan.

We laud the Provincial Government for providing health services to the poor by enrolling indigents in the National Health Insurance Program, at the same time investing in hospital upgrades to make available to these clients quality medical care.

USAID congratulates all the municipal/city governments through their mayors for supporting health services improvement by providing a budget for the procurement of family planning commodities, TB control, immunization and nutrition, and by upgrading their health facilities for better quality health care.

We also commend Pangasinan for its pioneering initiatives in mobilizing the private sector as a vibrant and dynamic partner of the government in meeting the demand of families for health care services including family planning, and maternal and child health services.

With the various stakeholders working collaboratively and playing their respective role, it will not be long in coming when Pangasinan realizes its vision of being the “best place to invest and work in, live, and raise a family,” a place where “no mother dies

while giving birth,” few babies succumb to death, mothers and children enjoy quality health care and the prevalence of infectious diseases is low.

The US government is true to its continued commitment to prevent suffering, save lives, create a brighter future for families, and improve global health. It is for this purpose that the US partners with the Government of the Philippines and other donors, including the European Commission in improving the quality, availability, and use of essential health services.

The American people are proud to contribute to this effort and will continue to assist the Philippines at the national and local levels to improve the quality of life of the Filipino people.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat (Thank you to all).